

Tropical Cyclone 02B was first detected on 28 September as an area of weakly organized convection located near the southern tip of Burma. Strong upper-level easterly flow over the system inhibitted the formation of outflow channels to the northeast; therefore it moved slowly west-northwestward over the next four days without increasing in organization or intensity. The system eventually moved away from its unfavorable environment and became a significant tropical cyclone.

As Tropical Cyclone 02B continued moving west-northwestward across the Bay of Bengal, its upper-level environment became more favorable for development of the system. Outflow channels became established when the upper-level easterly flow abated over the circulation. A TCFA was issued at 1029Z on

the 1st of October in view of the increased potential for further development. This alert was reissued on the 2nd after 24 hours with no further development. The first warning was finally issued at 030000Z. The initial warning on Tropical Cyclone 02B was prompted by satellite imagery which indicated that the system had intensified significantly over the past 24 hours with estimated winds of 45 kt (23 m/s).

The forecast called for continued west-northwestward movement and slight intensification prior to landfall on the eastern coast of India. Tropical Cyclone 02B behaved as expected, making landfall 20 nm (37 km) northeast of Vishakhapatnam, India at 17002 on the 3rd of October. After making landfall, Tropical Cyclone 02B moved inland over India and dissipated.

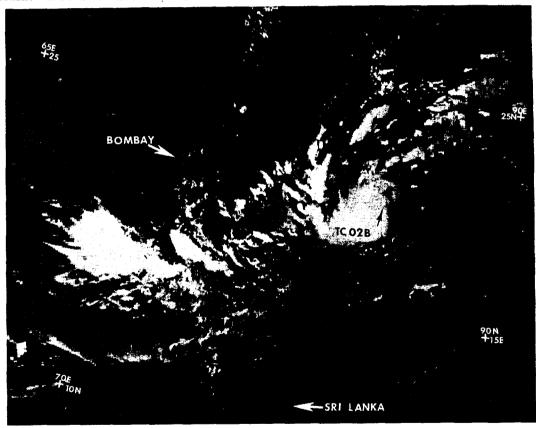


Figure 3-27-1. Tropical Cyclone 02B near maximum intensity seven hours prior to landfall (030948Z October NOAA 7 visual imagery).